

Amendments to the Claims:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A method in a communication network, having a network control plane and a connectivity plane, of routing a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal, in a radio network, which can be reached via two or more network nodes Media Gateways (MGWs) of the connectivity plane a first type, the method comprising the steps of:

routing the connectivity plane message separately from an associated network control plane message;

determining positional information, that indicates a geographical location of the mobile terminal, by a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSC Server) network node of a second type to which the mobile terminal is attached, indicating the geographical location of the mobile terminal and routing information, the routing information being associated with the MSC Server network node of a second type;

based on the positional information, selecting one of the two or more MGWs a network node of the connectivity plane first type via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the mobile terminal; and

designating a roaming number based on the selected network node of the first type;

sending the roaming number by the network node of the second type; and routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal via the selected MGW network node of the connectivity plane first type.

2. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the positional information indicates the geographical location of the mobile terminal within an area served by the MSC Server network node of the second type.

3. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein a network control plane message is routed via the selected MGW ~~determined network node of the first type~~ to the MSC Server ~~network node of the second type~~.
4. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein routing of the connectivity plane message is performed in a communications network that includes a first network portion having a split architecture and a second network portion having a monolithic architecture.
5. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the selected MGW ~~network node of the first type~~ is arranged between the first network portion and the second network portion.
6. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 4, wherein the selected MGW ~~network node of the first type~~ is selected such that resources utilized by the routed connectivity plane message in the first network portion are minimized.
7. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the positional information is included in the routing information.
8. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 1, wherein the positional information is received separately from the routing information.
9. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, further comprising the step of determining, based on the positional information[[,]] or receiving transmission information specifying the transmission regime, via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the selected MGW ~~determined network node of the first type~~.
10. (Currently Amended) A method of controlling the routing of a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal which can be reached via two or more Media Gateways (MGWs) ~~network nodes of a first type~~ and which is attached to a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSC Server) ~~network node of a second type~~, the method comprising the steps of:

receiving a request for routing information;
generating positional information, by the MSC Server network node of a second type to which the mobile terminal is attached, indicating the geographical location of the mobile terminal and routing information associated with the MSC Server network node of the second type to which the mobile terminal is attached; and
transmitting a roaming number providing a preferred routing using the positional informational; and
choosing one of the two or more MGWs a determined network node of the first type to through which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the mobile terminal.

11-14. (Canceled)

15. (Currently Amended) A network component, in a communication network comprising a network control plane and a connectivity plane, for controlling the routing [[of]] a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal attached to the network component and which can be reached via two or more Media Gateways (MGWs) of the connectivity plane network nodes and which is attached to the network component, the network component comprising:

a first interface for receiving a request for routing information, the routing information being associated with a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSC Server) of the network control plane to which the mobile terminal is attached;

a processing component for generating positional information indicating the geographical location of the mobile terminal, for routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal; and providing routing information associated with the network component, the processing component designating a roaming number based on the geographical location of the mobile terminal and the network component; and

a second interface for transmitting positional information and the routing information for the roaming number to enable a receiving network switch to select one

of the two or more MGWs ~~network nodes~~ via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the mobile terminal.

16 - 21. (Canceled)

22. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 1, wherein the two or more Media Gateways (MGWs) ~~network nodes of a first type~~ are combined network nodes, each combined network node comprising a Media Gateway (MGW) and a Signaling Gateway (SGW).

23. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 15, wherein the two or more network nodes are combined network nodes, each of which comprise a Media Gateway (MGW) and a Signaling Gateway (SGW).

24. (Currently Amended) A method, in a communication network employing a network control plane and a connectivity plane, of routing a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal that can be reached via two or more MGWs ~~network nodes~~ of the connectivity plane, the connectivity plane message being routed separately from an associated network control plane message, the method comprising the steps of:

determining ~~positional information~~ of a geographic location of the mobile terminal, with respect to the two or more MGWs ~~network nodes~~ of the connectivity plane;

receiving routing information associated with a Mobile Switching Center Server (MSCS) ~~network node~~ of the network control plane to which the mobile terminal is attached;

using the positional information of the mobile terminal to choose one of the MGWs ~~two or more network nodes~~ of the connectivity plane via which the connectivity plane message is routed to the mobile terminal; and

routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal via the chosen ~~MGW selected~~ ~~network node~~ of the connectivity plane.

25. (New) A network component, in a communication network comprising a network control plane and a connectivity plane, for routing a connectivity plane message to a mobile terminal which can be reached via two or more Media Gateways (MGWs), the network component comprising:

a first interface for receiving positional information indicating geographical location of the mobile terminal and routing information associated with an MSC Server to which the mobile terminal is attached;

a determination component for determining, based on the positional information, one of the two or more MGWs via which the connectivity plane message is to be routed to the mobile terminal; and

a second interface for routing the connectivity plane message to the mobile terminal via the determined one of the two or more MGWs.

26. (New) The network component of claim 25, further comprising a component for extracting the positional information from the routing information.